

WASHINGTON D.C. 16 APRIL 2016

OECD-UNDP JOINT TAX INSPECTORS WITHOUT BORDERS PROGRAM

The Co-Chairs Statement

The inaugural Governing Board of the joint OECD-UNDP Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) in Washington DC met on 16th April 2016. The first meeting of the Board follows the successful launch of the joint OECD-UNDP TIWB Program at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

The Co-Chairs, Mr Angel Gurría, Secretary General, OECD and Ms Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, welcomed the acceptance by all Governing Board members to serve for a three year term. These include; Emilia Peres (former Minister of Finance of Timor-Leste), John Christensen (Director, Tax Justice Network), Lilianne Ploumen (Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands), Mauricio Cárdenas Santa María (Minister of Finance and Public Credit of Colombia), Andrew Treusch (Chief Executive Officer of the Canada Revenue Agency), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (former Minister of Finance, Nigeria) and Paul Collier (Professor of Economics and Public Policy, University of Oxford).

The Co-Chairs acknowledged the central role of domestic resource mobilization in the achievement of the new sustainable development goals (SDGs), and particularly among developing countries. They emphasised the role that TIWB could play as a means to even the playing field for tax administrations in developing countries to tackle the worst forms of base erosion and profit shifting through deployment of experts working on actual cases. The recent release of the Panama Papers showed how timely and important initiatives that aim to build tax capacities in developing countries are. The positive returns of over \$185 million dollars recovered from pilot projects over the past two years from less than Euro 1 million in investment have demonstrated that the returns on investment from this venture can be very high. The Co-Chairs noted that currently that less than 1% of development aid goes towards building capacity for tax administrations .

The Co-Chairs spelt out the role and responsibilities of the high level Governing Board which include: to provide political visibility for the initiative, encourage opportunities for South-South cooperation, support fund raising efforts, monitor the work plan, and review the activities of the TIWB Secretariat.

The Co-Chairs committed to strengthening the working of the Joint TIWB Secretariat following the recent appointment of a new head of the Secretariat, James Karanja, and to continue to strengthen the joint working relationship of the two organizations towards enhanced delivery of capacity building support for domestic resource mobilization in developing countries.

The Board expressed its approval for the Secretariat 2016 work plan with key recommendations intended to ensure that the program leaves long-lasting and measurable impact on the intended beneficiaries. The program will ensure that suitable experts are duly identified and accredited; ensure proper quality control and ensure that TIWB deployments support long-term skills transfer to beneficiary country tax administrations.

The Governing Board will meet in Washington DC in April 2017.